

MEDUSA VELELLA.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus gelatinosum, orbiculatum, depressum.
Os subtus, centrale.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

MEDUSA ovalis cærulea, oblique cristata, crista simplici, subtus tentaculis numerosissimis.

MEDUSA OVALIS, concentrice striata, margine ciliato, supra velo membranaceo.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1098.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 3155.

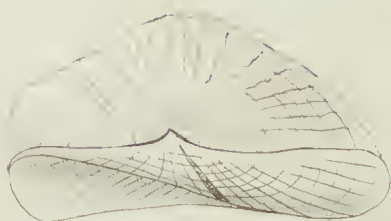
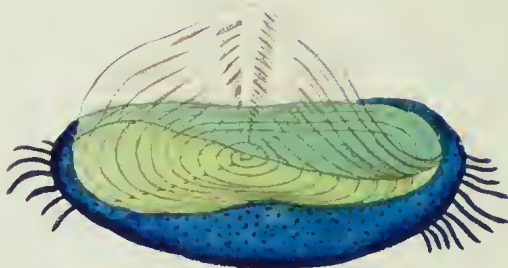
VELUM marinum coloris cærulei.

Imperat. nat. 912.

Medusæ Velellæ cujus magnitudinem naturalem ostendit tabula, facies non modo singularis verum etiam est elegans. Constat animal e corpore complanato, tenui, ovato, lineis seu fibris plurimis concentricis pulchre notato. Lineis similiter ductis affurgit quasi velum latum et erectum quod superius oblique extenditur. Cingitur corpus serie tentaculorum

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lorum parvorum quæ plurima ab ima parte protruduntur. Mare incolit Mediterraneum et Atlanticum bella hæc Medusa. Coloris est cærulei, vel quasi vitreo seu pellucido. Figura inferior fulcrum internum, seu cartilagineam membranaceam denudatam monstrat.



THE
SAILING MEDUSA.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body gelatinous, orbicular, commonly depressed.
Mouth beneath, central.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

OVAL BLUE MEDUSA, with oblique simple
crest, and very numerous tentacula beneath.

The BLUE SAILING MEDUSA.

The Medusa Velella, which is here represented in its natural size, is an animal of a very singular as well as elegant appearance. It consists of a flat thin body, of an oval form, and beautifully marked by a great number of concentric lines or fibres. On the upper part is situated, in an oblique direction, an upright broad process or sail, marked in a similar manner with numerous concentric striæ. The body is surrounded by a series of tentacula or small processes, a great number of which arise from the lower part. This curious Medusa is found both

in the Mediterranean and Atlantic seas. It is of a blue color, except the sail, which is pellucid, and of a glassy appearance. The lower figure shews the internal fulcrum or membranaceous cartilage, the gelatinous part being taken off.